



St. Aldhelm's NEWSLETTER

Father Thomas Kulandaisamy, MSFS
Deacon Steve Boughton
Deacon Rémi Thivet

**6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
15th February 2026**

Live Webcam Link for all our Masses
churchservices.tv/malm

To Make your Weekly Contribution Online
<https://www.saintaldhelms.com/donate>

New Parish Hall Project
saintaldhelms.com/new-

Wednesday Word
www.wednesdayword.org

St Joseph's School Website
[st-josephs-malmesbury.](https://st-josephs-malmesbury)

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Aldhelm's,

We hope you are ok wherever you are. We are delighted to be in touch with you through this newsletter. We extend a warm welcome to all visitors and thank you for joining us in celebrating the Lord's love for us in the Holy Eucharist. There are no strangers here, just new friends you have not yet met!

The first reading from Sirach affirms the God-given freedom of the human will, making

clear that God is not responsible for evil: we are set before life and death and must choose. In the second reading, Paul urges the Corinthians to recognise the hidden wisdom of God's saving plan, now revealed through the Spirit. In the Gospel, taken from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus calls his disciples to a righteousness surpassing that of the scribes and Pharisees. As the new lawgiver, he deepens the Mosaic Law, teaching that anger is akin to murder, lust to adultery, divorce a serious violation, and false oaths a profanation.

Ash Wed

We will have just one mass on Ash Wednesday at 10am on 18th of Feb. All welcome to join us.

Fast and Abstinence

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards. Members of the Eastern Catholic Churches are to observe the particular law of their own *sui iuris* Church.

Lenten devotions

20 Feb Fri 6.30pm: Stations of the Cross

27 Feb Fri 6.30pm: Benediction

6 March Fri 6.30pm: Stations of the Cross

13 March Fri 6.30pm: Benediction

20 March Fri 6.30pm: Sacrament of Reconciliation and opportunity for individual confession

27 March Fri 6.30pm: Stations of the Cross

Donation: Delighted to share with you that we have recently received a donation of £5,000 from a parishioner, along with a further £1,000 from another parishioner, towards the parish hall. We are truly grateful for this kindness and generosity. Please keep them and the parish hall project in your prayers

Collection figures for this week

Loose £181.07

Env NGA £ 20.70

Env GA £ 70.00

Parish Hall £ 5135.00

Marriage Encounter. For the past 50 years Worldwide Marriage Encounter has been offering marriage enrichment experiences all around the world. Focused on couples who want to enrich their relationship and discover God's desire for their marriage. The Marriage Encounter weekend and on-line experience are an opportunity to explore your relationship at a deeper, more intimate level, regardless of how long you have been together. Thousands of couples in the UK have benefited from a Marriage Encounter Experience, and our next event is a residential weekend at Swindon Holiday Inn Express from 27th February – 1st March 2026. Please see the poster below for more details and to book to come.

Last Call to Join the Bishop for the Mass for Marriage and Family Life. Our diocesan family will be celebrating Mass in the Cathedral on **Saturday 14 February** (12 noon) and Bishop Bosco is inviting all families to join us to acknowledge the joys & challenges of family life. In addition, we will celebrate those couples with significant anniversaries in 2026. If you are, or know of a couple, celebrating a special anniversary during 2026 please do let us know. You just need to send names to: adult.education@cliftondiocese.org with an address so that a personal invitation can be sent out from the bishop. Please include the number of years celebrating. It is always a wonderful Mass at the Cathedral, we look forward to seeing you there.

Lenten Reconciliation Services. Bishop Bosco invites you to join him during this season of Lent to celebrate the abundant mercy of God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Join him at one of the five venues across our diocese on the poster below as part of your Lenten Pilgrimage. Our nearest is 10th March at The Church of the Immaculate Conception, Devizes at 7pm. Building upon the beautiful gatherings during Lent he is inviting our diocesan community to gather with him in celebration of God's merciful love as part of our Lenten journey. There will be priests available at each venue to celebrate sacramental reconciliation. You will be most welcome at any of the venues.

Confirmation Paperwork - 2022/2024. We're just tidying and checking our confirmation records, and whilst the team have completed most of the forms please could anyone (or their parent/guardian) who was confirmed in 2022 or 2024 provide their confirmation name and full name of their sponsor for us to check. Please send your details to Annette via email at annettebed50@gmail.com or phone/text/WhatsApp on 07733283012. Many thanks

Parish Hall Fundraising

Gold and Silver Collection - Please do help us in our fundraising towards the Parish Hall by donating any unwanted gold or silver of any size or weight. Everything helps. Please see the poster below and we'll be collecting anything you have to offer after Masses in February

Please help us buy our Roof Tiles! As you may have noticed positive progress is being made on the Parish Hall roof. Tiling may begin within the next four or five weeks. You can expect an opportunity to sign your tiles in the near future. There is still time for you, your family, your friends or even acquaintances to buy tiles. Just follow the link on the parish hall page of the parish website or use the DONA machine in the porch. We are very grateful for all your support. We can also claim gift aid on your donation provided you have a valid gift aid form in place - please do click the gift aid option on Dona or let us know if you would like a form for us to claim gift aid on any donations to the parish or the hall. It makes such a wonderful difference to us - thank you.

QR code. We are so very grateful for all your kind donations to the hall and to the items we need to buy for the running and safe operation of the hall. We've been asked how to donate to help us, and the details are on the website here [Saint Aldhelms Malmesbury](#) and if you would like to donate to our parish hall with your phone please just point the camera on your phone to the QR code below and it will take you to the parish Dona page. Thank you so very much for your kindness and generosity and please know that it will have a wonderful effect on generations to come.



ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL NEWS

Friday 13th February marks the end of Term 3 for St. Joseph's staff and pupils. We say a sad farewell to Mr Paul Bacon and Mrs Sharon Carpenter as co-headteachers at the

end of this term. Mrs Carpenter has worked alongside Mr Bacon since September 2025 and has been dedicated in co-leading the school with Mr Bacon over the past six months in a temporary capacity.

Mr. Bacon has been with St Joseph's since the Autumn of 2023. He initially led St. Joseph's in partnership with Miss Karen Bathe between 2023 and 2024. Thereafter, he led St. Joseph's full time between 2024 and 2025 and then in a part time capacity with Mrs Carpenter since last autumn. The school and parish have been very grateful for the tireless commitment of these school leaders during a period of difficulty for the school.

Mr. Bacon is now leaving St. Joseph's to enjoy a well deserved retirement. We send him our sincere thanks and good wishes as well as huge appreciation for his skill and dedication over the past nearly 3 years.

As a parish we thank them all for their contribution in successfully steering the school to a recent very positive Ofsted outcome as well as proudly opening St. Joseph's Nursery for Under 5's on the school site last autumn.

Term 4 begins for St. Joseph's on Monday 23rd February when we welcome to St. Joseph's Mr Nick Morell to the full time permanent position of Headteacher. Mr. Morrell comes with excellent credentials and we wish him every success in the months and years ahead.

Bishop commends “ordinary heroism of married love”

Marriage Week, 7-14 February 2026

Bishop Bosco MacDonald, Bishop of Clifton and Lead Bishop for Marriage and Family Life for the Bishops' Conference, has praised the “ordinary heroism of married love, and the strength of family life” in a message to mark Marriage Week that runs from 7-14 February 2026.

“Love has a purpose,” says Bishop MacDonald. “Love is sustained by choice as well as by affection. It is a promise lived again each day, sometimes at a cost, often in quiet, hidden ways. Mercy keeps love alive when people are disappointed in one another. Discernment helps couples face the realities in front of them without bitterness. Mission reminds every family that their home is meant to become a place where others can glimpse the kindness of God.”

cbcew.org.uk/bishop-co

The Relics of Saint Carlo Acutis to visit St Gregory the Great, Cheltenham in March.
The Visit of the Relics of Saint Carlo Acutis to St Gregory the Great, Cheltenham, March 8th to 10th 2026

In March 2026, we will host the relics of St Carlo Acutis at two of our churches over three days, during which time we will welcome schools, parishioners and people from all over the diocese for veneration.

Born in 1991, Carlo is the first millennial saint and he is celebrated for his profound faith and use of the internet to log Eucharistic miracles from around the world. At just 7 years old, he wished to receive his First Holy Communion and told his parents, “this is my programme of life.”

Alongside his digital Evangelism, Carlo is revered for his charitable work and great desire to help others. He gave his time towards helping those experiencing homelessness and hunger in Milan, even purchasing sleeping bags and food for them using his own money. Carlo was passionate about spreading the teachings of the Catholic Church up until his death from leukaemia at the age of 15.

Full details: cliftondiocese.com/new

Mass Intentions Requested:

14 Feb Sat 6.30pm: Private Intention

15 Feb Sun 8.30am: Missa pro populo

15 Feb Sun 10am: For the intentions of Fr Thomas, Deacon Steve and Deacon Remi (offered by David and Josie Charlton)

19 Feb Thurs 10am: For the repose of the soul of James Murphy RIP (offered by Sheila Stephens)

Wisdom from Saints

“The noblest power of man is reason. The highest goal of reason is the knowledge of God.”

-ST. ALBERT THE GREAT (ca. 1200-1280, Dominican priest, scientist, and scholar, Doctor of the Church, and one of the greatest theologians of the Church)

PS: Newsletter items to be in by Thursday noon
(malmesbury.staldhelm@cliftondiocese.com)

With every blessing

Father Thomas, Deacon Steve, and Deacon Remi

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ADULT EDUCATION AND EVANGELISATION



A FUTURE full of

HOPE

MARRIAGE & family life



"Every encounter with Christ, who in sacraments gives us salvation, invites us to 'go' and communicate to others the salvation that we have been able to see, to touch, to encounter and to receive and which is truly credible because it is love."
Pope Francis

"God has poured out his love into our hearts"

Romans 5:5



Join the Bishop for Mass in the Cathedral as we celebrate the gift that is Marriage & Family Life on **Saturday 14 February** at 12noon.

All are welcome.

If you are celebrating a significant anniversary this year, newly married, or looking forward to marriage in 2026, then please contact us: adult.education@cliftondiocese.com or 0117 902 5595.

CELEBRATING marriage & family life

 **CLIFTON
DIOCESE**
cliftondiocese.com

LENT 2026



A FUTURE full of

HOPE

LENTEN reconciliation



'It is the same compassion with which the Lord comes to meet each one of us: He does not ignore us, he knows our pain, he knows how much we need help and comfort. He comes close and never abandons us.'

Pope Francis, General Audience, 27 April 2016

Bishop Bosco invites you to join him during this season of Lent to celebrate the abundant mercy of God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Join him at one of the five venues across our diocese as part of your Lenten Pilgrimage.

RECONCILIATION LITURGIES

Tuesday 24 February
St Mary, Glastonbury

Thursday 5 March
Sacred Heart, Tisbury

Tuesday 10 March
Immaculate Conception,
Devizes

Tuesday 17 March
St Joseph, Tewkesbury

Tuesday 24 March
Christ the King, Thornbury

Each Liturgy will start at 7pm

RECONCILIATION

CELEBRATING THE FATHER'S MERCY





“Embrace your life together in Love”

For the past 50 years Worldwide Marriage Encounter has been offering marriage enrichment experiences all around the world. Focused on couples who want to enrich their relationship and discover God's desire for their marriage.

The Marriage Encounter weekend and on-line experience are an opportunity to explore your relationship at a deeper, more intimate level, regardless of how long you have been together. Thousands of couples in the UK have benefited from a Marriage Encounter Experience.

Our next experience is:

Residential weekend at Swindon -Holyday Inn Express
27th February – 1st March 2026

To find out more or book an experience:

[Book on Marriage Encounter weekend - Swindon 27th Feb-1st March 2026](#)

enquiries@wwme.org.uk

wwme.org.uk



**Why Not Donate Your
Unwanted Silver and Gold?**



For Funds Towards the Parish Hall

**Place your Donations in
a Self-Addressed Envelope for
Collection at All Masses During
February**